

JULY, 1931

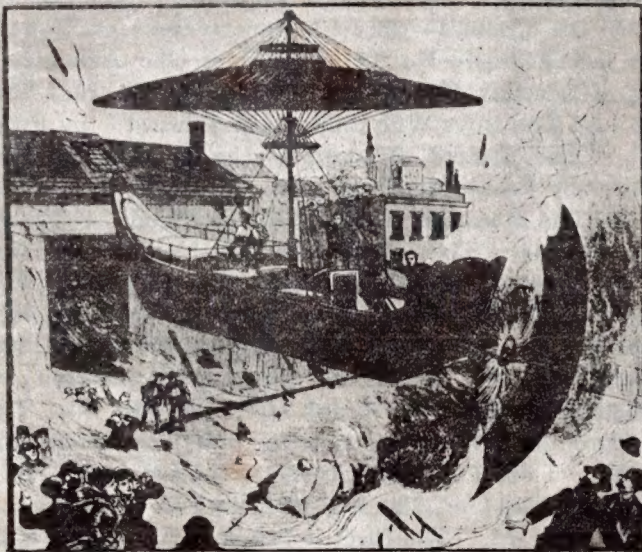
# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD

**Another Great Story Will be Commenced Next Week!**

THE  
**BOYS' NEW YORK**  
A PAPER FOR YOUNG AMERICANS

Vol. 81. [REDACTED] NEW YORK, DECEMBER 19, 1909. [REDACTED] No. 440



The steel plant at once began to revolve, and the leaves of the rotascope opened like the ribs of an enormous umbrella. The dust rose in a cloud from the mouth all around the air-spout. Faster and faster went the rotascope, and in another instant the air-spout began to rise. Harvey and Percy sprang up and bowed forward and waving their hats. Kismet and Sultana waved their hats, and, amidst the enthusiasm of the other two,

## Frank Reade, Jr.

[illegible][illegible]

"I think it's important to be concerned if something's not right," says the 26-year-old, who has been in the industry for about a year. "I think it's important to be concerned if something's not right," says the 26-year-old, who has been in the industry for about a year. "I think it's important to be concerned if something's not right," says the 26-year-old, who has been in the industry for about a year.

They will give you a \$200 fee plus the cost of the trip. When you return, you will be given a \$200 fee plus the cost of the trip. When you return, you will be given a \$200 fee plus the cost of the trip.

[illegible]

## A DREAM OF THE FUTURE IN 1885

A Frank Reade, Jr., front page on Boys of New York for December 19, 1885

Vol. I. No. 7.

Whole No. 7.



---

**BOYS OF AMERICA, A TWENTIETH CENTURY STORY PAPER**


---

By RALPH F. CUMMINGS

I have the complete file of Boys of America, running from No. 1 to No. 107, and believe that I have something of interest to tell about it.

In the first place, know that it started out as a rival of Frank Tousey's Happy Days. How well it fared may be reckoned from the fact that while Boys of America ran to 107 numbers, Happy Days exceeded the thirty year limit. So much for that.

The first issue was dated October 5, 1901, and the leading story was "The Banker's Boy Wizard; or, The Great Corner in the Stock Market," by Rufus Sage. No 107 featured "Among the Missing; or, Bound to Find His Sister," by Richard Hackstaff. The size of the paper was the same as Happy Days. Street & Smith were the publishers, at 238 Williams Street, New York City.

No. 3 front-covered, "The Raven of the North; or, The Wonder of the Isles," by Oil Coomes—No. 8, "Broncho Bess; or, The Mysterious Avenger," by Jack Forrest—No. 12, "Ironsides, the Avenger; or, The White Riders of Demon's Gorge," by Oil Coomes—No. 20, "The All-Star Athletic Club; or, The Boys Who Couldn't be Downed," by Frank Merriwell—No. 31, "The Record Breakers of the Diamond; or The All-Star Base-Ball Tour," by Frank Merriwell—No. 33, "Little Grit, the Pony Express Rider; or, The Mountain Bandit of the Overland," by Colonel Prentiss Ingraham—No. 44, "The Secret of the Glen; or, On the Trail With Buffalo Bill," by Colonel Prentiss Ingraham—No. 45, "The Thunderbolt of the Border; or, Daniel Boone on the Warpath," by Scout Jack Ford—No. 57, "Buck Badger's Ranch; or, Up Against the Gold Pirates," by Frank Merriwell—No. 59, "The Young Giants of the Gridiron; or, Fighting for the Football Pennant," by Frank Merriwell—No. 60, "The Electric Wizard; or, Through Air and Water to the Pole," by Emerson Bell—No. 69, "Electric Larry; or, The Young Inventor's Air Marvels," by Old Pard—No. 70, "Squirrel Cap; or, The Red Mail Robbers of Racoon Ridge," by Scout Jack Ford—No. 73, "The Electric Sea Spider; or, The King of the Submarine World," by Captain Frank Holland—No. 75, "Kansas Kit; or, The Young Scout's Secret Trail," by Scout Jack Ford—No. 81, "Lightfoot, the Chippewa Scout; or, The Unknown Avenger," by Scout Jack Ford—No. 84, "The Prairie Boys; A Tale of the Old Santa Fe Trail," by Scout Jack Ford—No. 95, "The Mill Creek Midgets; or The Smallest Team in the League"—and many other dandies.

"The Electric Wizard," and "The Electric Sea Spider," are, as no doubt you surmised, "invention" stories. It would appear, at first glance, that they were aimed to compete with "Noname's" Frank Reade and Jack Wright Stories, but there was only one "Noname."

## JONNIE JONES' DIARY

Boys, let the publisher know how you like the Diary. The one guessing the author of this article will receive, in A-1 shape, a Beadle's Dime Library, or a cloth bound book, by Edward S. Ellis

Jan. 8. (continued) Maw looked dagurs at paw, but didn't say any-thing more. Paw didn't either, but looked at me and winked an larfed.

Am readin one of the novuls paw giv me. It is "The James Boys in Peril; or, Carl Greene the Detectuvs Oath." Gosh! Jussie James a rip snorter. And Siroc! Whut a hoss! I am goin to hav one jist like him when i gro up and go out West as a scout. If two many injuns gut me cornered up, say 50 or 60, wich wud be too or three more then i cud lick, single handed, a horse like Siroc would be handy to retreat with.

May 30—Traded a big bunch of my novuls to day with Willie Green for a bunch of his. Got some Jack Harkaways. Jack is a dandy. Didn't kno that English boys wer such regler fellers. Gosh, whut a pair Jack and Frank Murriwel wud make. But that feller Hunston, i wisht Yung Wild West or Buffo Bil could get him out West fur a wile. They wud shake the rattles off his tail all rite.

Played ball this afternoon. Our team played the Dirty Duzen. Licked them 48 to 26. I am the pitcher on our team. Hev learned to pitch Frank Murriwel's duble-shoot. Can pitch it all rite, but the other fellers seem to hit it most of the time. Gees! The duble-shoot ain't such grate berries after all. Gut to learn a better curv. Gosh, this is the first time i have writ in my diury for over 4 months. Got to do better than that or maw will skin me.

June 4—Paw has subscribed for Brave & Bold for a year, and gives them to me after he reades them. They are hum dinger yarns. Whut i like about them is that there is a difrunt story each week. Just read Secret Servis Sam, or A Detectiv in the Gold Mines! Paw sez he once read this one years ago in Beaduls Harf Dime Liburary. I got sum Beaduls Dime Liburays about Pirutes. I wud like to be a Pirute wen I gro up, like Free-lance, the Buckanear, but don't dare tell paw so. He wud proberly larrup me. Me and the gang went swimmin today in the old mill pond. Had a dandy time except that i got a cramp an nearly drowned.

June 11—Maw asked to day to see my diury. First time she has ever seen it. After lookin it over she sez "Dime novuls, Dime novuls. Not content with readin them yu eat on sleep with them." She looked at paw an paw larfed and sez "A Chip of the Old Block."

Played ball agin this P. M. Played the "Alley Cats" this time. Tie game, score 9 to 9 at end of first innin, wich was also the end of the game. Game wud hev been longer only Ed Smart sed he wan't out when he wuz.



I started to argew the point with him, but he didn't wunt to argew. To prove he didn't he hit me an awful belt in the eye. In about two seconds a free for all wuz on, with me at the bottom of the heap. We won the fight if not the game and some of those "Cats" went home with singed tails. No one wuz hurt on our side. I got a black eye, a split lip, lost two frunt teeth, gut a kick in the shins and my pants tore, but warn't hurt. When i gut home paw sez "Where wuz the axidunt, wuz many killed?" I told him i had only bin playin ball. Maw looked at him and sez, "A Chip of the Old Block." Paw looked dagurs at her, but didn't say nuthin.

Gus Brown giv me a bunch of Golden Hours. Sum grate stories in them. Am readin "The Dimun King, or Too American Boys with Barney Tomato." I am goin to Africa when i gro up and shoot niggers and eller-funts and dig dimuns, an be a dimun king like Tomato wuz. (Continued)

—:0:—

## MEMBER OF JAMES BOYS GANG NOW RELIGIOUS WORKER

By FRANK T FRIES

The American Weekly in the June 7 issue carries an article about Alex Adair, of Denver, Colo., who was a member of the James Boys Outlaw Band in the good old days.

He was known as Daredevil Alex and says he was always ready for any job that the swashbuckling outlaws assigned to him.

Alex is now a quiet-spoken man of 81, and is an active member of the Volunteers of America, who ape the Salvation Army.

"Many of the so-called crimes of the James Boys," says Adair, "were what might be called 'Robin Hood jobs'—cases of robbing the rich to give to the poor and needy—but I know now that even that type of banditry is bad. A criminal cannot be happy, even though he escapes punishment."

Alex Adair is the last surviving member of the James Boys Band, Jim Cummins having died a couple of years ago at a Confederate soldiers' home, where he had spent the last few years of his life.

—:0:—

## THE COMMODORE SAYS:

Mr. Frank T. Fries,  
800 West Market Street,  
Orrrville, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Fries:

I am sorry to have to report to you that the old nickel libraries and old-time dime novels, such as "The James Boys Weekly" cannot be secured

any more, at least in any quantity ; that is, in English. In Havana and in San Juan I have seen them in recent years, printed in Spanish with the old cuts we used to see on them here a number of years ago, and the publications looked new and probably are being turned out for those youths down there who did not have them years ago as our American youths did. But the ones printed in English are so old and rare that they have practically become museum pieces. The New York Public Library has a collection, I understand, and this firm has a number of these old copies, but, of course, they are for records, and are not for sale. . . . .

Yours for service,

THE COMMODORE.

(The Commodore is with Top Notch Magazine and makes a specialty of locating rare items of merchandise for readers of that publication.)

—:o:—

### BOB SMETZER CONTRIBUTES

"Old Black Joe" died at Mount Holly, N. J., recently (from Boys of New York, Nov. 9, 1889) in the little log cabin where he lived for years, just on the outskirts of the town. His proper name was Joseph Queen, and he was undoubtedly the oldest man in the state, being 112 years of age. He was born in Virginia in 1777 and this fact is recorded in faded characters in the old family Bible.

"Old Black Joe" was a runaway slave and came to New Jersey in 1852 where he was taken care of by some of the residents of Mount Holly. One of these friends is still living (1889) and recalls that "Joe" was very well along in years when he came there.

Have you ever noticed how some authors' names strike you, as for instance : Commodore Ah Look (humorous,) Roger Starbuck (romantic,) Corporal Morgan Rattler (piratic,) Gaston Garne (Dreamy,) Ned Buntline (Son of the Plains.)

Would "Jesse James" continue to awe us if his name had been something else, as for instance "John Doe"? No, you bet not. Strange it is that his name fitted him—an up-and-at-'em name—and he fitted his name.

—:o:—

THE

MIDGET

STORY PAPER

Only 35c per year.  
16 pages monthly.  
Old-time Fred Fear-  
not series now being  
published.

FRANK T. FRIES  
800 W. Market St.  
Orrville - - Ohio



## SPANKED AT SEVENTEEN BY THE EDITOR OF GOLDEN HOURS

By FRED T. SINGLETON

I began to wean myself away from the nickel libraries and story papers of my boyhood days in 1890, when I was fourteen years old. I continued to buy and read them off and on for some years afterwards, but my interest in them was divided by the several fascinating pursuits which crowded in on me when I got a job as "the boy" in a small job-printing office on Minnesota Avenue, one flight up, back (law office in front). The proprietor of this shop, Will Plank, a man in his early twenties, was a stamp collector and natural history enthusiast. Almost the first Sunday after I went to work for him, he took me out with him on a trip in the woods along the Missouri River and I got my first introduction to nature study and collecting. I had tramped over the same ground for years with boyhood pals, but never saw as much in all that time as my new boss showed me in one afternoon.

Soon I was up to my ears in philately, field ornithology, entomology, botany, mineralogy, geology, and archaeology, or, in boys' language, stamps, bird life and eggs, pressed flowers and plants, minerals, fossils, and Indian relics. Then, in addition, I was led into and given access to the wonderful library in the home of my boss—a modest home, but with a living room lined with books and with books in some quantity in every room. Here were the great treasures of classic literature and romantic fiction. Here I had pointed out to me as prime stories, "Les Miserables," "Mysteries of Paris," "Around the World in Eighty Days," and "Treasure Island." My boyhood heroes, Deadwood Dick, Frank Reade, Jr., and the Shortys, found stiff competition in this company.

A year or two later, I crashed the portals of amateur journalism and among the several papers which I planned during this period the one which actually got as far as Volume I, Number 1, was called The Amateur Printer. By this time, I was fairly launched on my career as a printer and had grand ideas about my future. I was a cover-to-cover reader of the leading printing trade journal of that day, The Inland printer, a file of bound volumes of which was one of the treasures of the little shop in which I was employed at the time, and on my own initiative bought occasional copies of the new advertising weekly, Printers' Ink, still beloved by every advertising man in 1931. These lively professional publications had a profound influence on me, and I am able to hand in a strong indorsement as to the value of such journals to a young apprentice. But at seventeen, in my case, all this learning about printing, publishing, and advertising was inclined to make me a trifle "heady." I began to look down on most of the amateur papers which came my way. My own periodical was planned to tell them all about

their faults and to demonstrate to all the world that I knew all there was to be learned about the art and craft of printing !

Nearly forty years have passed since my last look at the little sheet, and visualization in detail is difficult at this long range. But from what my memory does flash forth I am sure that it would today be considered a good job for a boy of seventeen with experience gained in one-man shops in Kansas City in the early 1890's. My employer gave me permission to use his establishment after working hours to get out the little paper, and I put in many long evenings setting type and "kicking" the foot-power press. The Amateur Printer was about six by nine inches in size, four pages, printed on good paper. The typography was pretentious, the pages being set in three tiny columns in 6-point old-style type, with headings set in plain roman capitals, giving an effect of a miniature imitation of the high class literary and critical journals of the period. So much for style.

But my grammar, proof-reading, and editorial acumen were not so happy. I was riding for a fall, and it fell the lot of the editor of Golden Hours, one of the most popular of the boys' weeklies of the day, to throw me hard. Golden Hours at that time was running a department on amateur journalism, and I was a rather regular reader of the paper on this account. It was not so easy as it sounds for me to shake off the boys' story papers. I kept going back to them for short runs for one reason or another. But I never really liked Golden Hours with the same degree of warmth with which I admired Boys of New York, Golden Argosy, and Golden Weekly. I have not seen a copy of Golden Hours for nearly forty years and am unable to say at this late date just what it was about the paper that kept me off. I do remember that the pictures ruffled my feathers a bit. There was a sort of flippant note to the illustrations. They seemed more like cartoons of the characters than likenesses. But it will take actual examination of a file to determine the reason for the paper's lack of charm for me. It is certain that I did not like it for some reason.

But I made a great mistake when I took a pot-shot at this big weekly in my toy periodical. And added insult to injury by sending in a marked copy to the editor.

(To be concluded)

—:o:—

Boys, there is a dandy article on Oll Coomes in the Des Moines, Iowa, Sunday Register for May 31, 1931. Has illustrations of Beadle's New Dime Novels, photograph of Coomes himself, and everything. Send 10c to the publisher for a copy.

A "History of American Magazines," by F. L. Mott, is being published by D. Appleton & Co. First of the two volumes now ready at \$10. Splendid work of reference for students and collectors. Last Vol. due end of year.



## ON THE TRAIL OF THE NOVEL HUNTERS

By "DEADWOOD DICK"

CHARLES BRAGIN . . . A collector . . . Gets a great "kick" out of it . . . Never saw anyone who did not express keen delight in viewing the illustrations in the old-time novels and story papers.

SAM CANTERMAN . . . One of the Canterman Brothers of Pittsburgh who get out a collector's magazine . . . Reads 'em, trades 'em and sells 'em.

WILLIAM ERBE . . . Tell us all about that big lot of old-time novels you bought, Bill . . . At that Bankrupt sale of the Lincoln Book Store in New York.

J. H. GRANTHAM . . . Twenty years ago bought the old favorites every Monday night . . . Right out of the mail sack at the Post Office . . . Lived in a little mining and cattle town in Colorado.

W. R. JOHNSON . . . Likes Boys of New York, Golden Days and the old Police Gazette . . . And all the old-time libraries and story papers . . . A Nebraska novel stacker.

WILLIAM M. KRELING . . . Strictly a collector and trader . . . No sell 'em . . . But has got 'em, they say . . . Stacks of 'em.

FRED LEE . . . Has some fine old-time black and whites in his private file . . . Special "yen" for Tousey's James Boys' Weekly with the colored covers . . . And Street & Smith's Buffalo Bill Stories.

FRED V. PETERSON . . . Likes all kinds of old magazines, story papers and books . . . Old Cassell's Family Magazine and the Frank Leslie . . . Has the old Sunday School classic, "Rollo's Tour Through Europe," in ten volumes.

—:o:—

## SOME GOOD OLD HAPPY DAYS

By FRANK T FRIES

After reading the titles of some of the fine stories published in Boys of America, which Ralph Cummings has listed on page 2 of this issue, it will probably prove interesting to compare them with titles of old Happy Days stories running at approximately the same date: "Jack Wright and Frank Reade, Jr., the Two Boy Inventors; or, Brains Against Brains." (A story of a race around the world for \$10,000)—"Lost at the Pole; or, The Secret of the Arctic Circle."—Jack Wright and His New Electric Horse; or, A Perilous Trip Over Two Continents."—"The Boyhood Days of Pawnee Bill; or, From the Schoolroom to the Frontier."—"The Strange Horsemen



of Turkey Run ; or, The Signal of the Silent Riders," (a Jesse James story) —"Jack Harkaway, Jr.'s, School Days."—"Jack Harkaway, Jr., at Harvard."—"Six Weeks on the Moon ; or, A Trip Beyond the Zenith."—"Thru India on Bicycles."—Hermann, the Boy Magician."—"Maceo's Boy Guerrillas ; or, Fighting to Free Cuba."—"Buffalo Bill's Boy Chum : or, In the Wild West with the King of Scouts."

—:o:—

### CHECK LIST OF POPULAR AMERICAN NOVELS

Item No. 7—Police Gazette Series of Famous Criminals. Size, 6½ x 9¼ ; one column to page ; 66 pages ; yellow wrappers ; illustrations on front page, and many illustrations inside. Published by Richard K. Fox, proprietor of Police Gazette, Franklin Square, New York, in the early 1880's. Sold for 25c per copy. Some of the stories were : "Billy LeRoy, the Colorado Bandit ; or, The King of American Highwaymen"—"The Outlaw Brothers ; or, Frank and Jesse James"—Bella Starr, the Bandit Queen ; or, The Female Jesse James." Many other titles in full list.

—:o:—

### PARTIAL LIST OF 1931 MEMBERS OF H. H. B.

- 41—Charles S. Woodward, South Ashburnham, Mass.  
 52—A. W. Edgerton, 116 W. White Oak Drive, Houston, Texas.  
 53—C. Arthur Neetz, 656 Chestnut Street, Emaus, Pa.

—:o:—

### NOVEL NEWS AND NOTIONS

It seems that Log Cabin Novels were printed on cheaper paper than the Beadle publications. They do not stand up well, flake away and get yellowed quickly. Perhaps that is why they are so scarce today.

First American juvenile periodical on record is Children's Magazine, first number of which appeared in March, 1789. Who has a copy ?

Science and Invention for October, 1920, carried an article on Lou Senarens (Noname,) with interesting illustrations.

William J. Benners is world's authority on old story papers.

—:o:—

### BOB SMETZER CONTRIBUTES

From Beadle's Dime Library, No.  
 17 (a doleful chanty :)  
 Above and below  
 I come and go  
 And none may know  
 How I come and go.

### SAILOR SONG

I'll blacken your eyes  
 And eat your pies  
 Said Barnacle Bill  
 The sailor, he ho ;  
 And a bottle of soda.

By Ed.

**DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP**

The official organ of the  
Happy Hours Brotherhood  
Published

The First of Every Month  
Forms close the 10th of month  
preceding date of issue.

—Published by—

**RALPH F. CUMMINGS**

Route 1, Box 55

GRAFTON, MASS.

Advertising Rates—50c per inch;  
¼ page \$1.50; ½ page \$2.75;  
full page \$5.00. (Allow about  
30 words to inch). Four con-  
secutive ads for price of three.  
Change of copy allowed.

Subscription—Is included with  
membership to Happy Hours  
Brotherhood. Others 75c per  
year.

Remit by check or money order  
in advance.

Back Numbers 10c per copy.

**WANTED**

Barney Barnardo, the African Dia-  
mond King, either in Happy Days  
or Golden Hours. Also: Other  
Golden Hours and Happy Days. Pub.

**WANTED**

Cavalier, Norfolk, Va.,  
Seven Arts Magazine,  
Balzac Library, daily, 1900,  
M'lle New York,  
Crane, Red Badge, 1895,  
Last Words, 1902. Open Boat, '98  
Maggie, by Johnston Smith,  
On Going to Church, 1896,  
Monsieur Beaucaire, 1900,  
Gypsy Trail, Philistine, Oct., 1896  
and Jan., 1897.

**BOOK EXCHANGE**

Station A. Toledo, Ohio.

Will exchange Tip Top, Old Sleuth  
Diamond Dick, Young Rover, Nick  
Carter, Young Klondike, Three  
Chums, etc. Send for My List of  
duplicates and wants.

**WM. M. KRELING**

180 San Anselmo Ave. San Francisco, Calif.

Printing That Tells

Prices That Surprise

Striking Money-saver

100 white wove envelopes, size 6 3-4 and  
100 half-size letterheads. Good grade ec-  
onomic bond, 20 lb. Your name and bus-  
iness printed on same, postpaid, for only

**80c**

**EVERETT BIGGS**

Dept. D N

LEWIS

INDIANA

**HOBBIES**

The most interesting magazine in  
the world. Covers every phase of  
the fascinating business of collect-  
ing. A consolidation of 12 maga-  
zines, devoted to the collecting of  
rare books, stamps, autographs,  
arms, Indian relics, and hundreds  
of other interesting subjects.

Obtainable at news stands thru-  
out the world, or Lightner Publish-  
ing Corp., 2810 S. Michigan Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill. Sample copies 10c.  
Adv. rates furnished upon request.

**I NEED MANY NUMBERS  
OF THESE:**

Street & Smith Weeklies: Buffalo  
Bill Stories, Diamond Dick, Jr.,  
New Nick Carter, Nick Carter  
Stories, Rough Rider, Bowery Boy,  
Jesse James Stories. Frank Tousey  
Weeklies: Wild West Weekly.

**SEND LIST**

Good exchange made, or will pay cash.

**J. EDWARD LEITHEAD**

5018 Catharine-st, Philadelphia, Pa.